GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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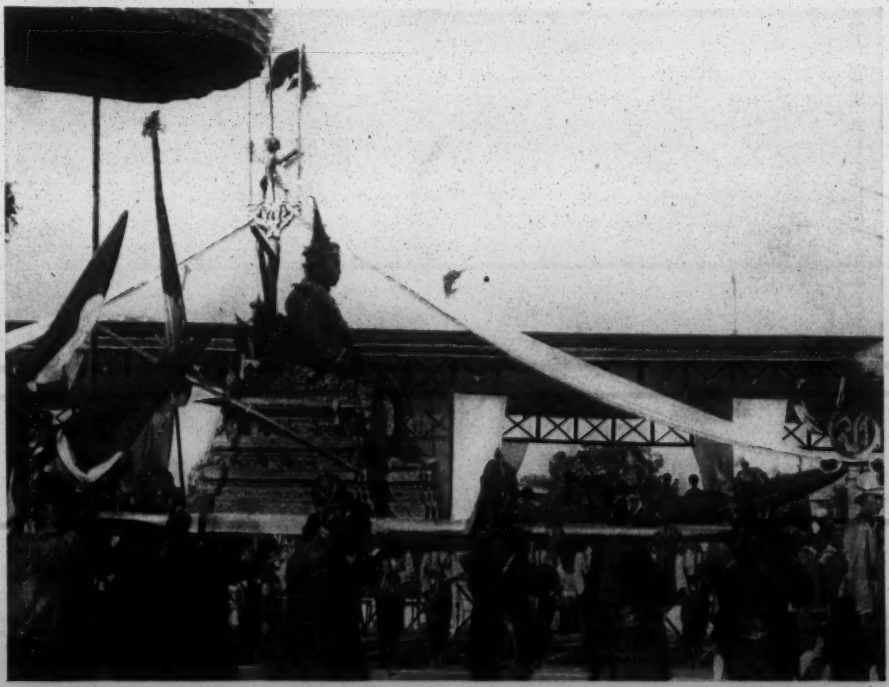

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LATE KING OF SIAM SEATED ON GOLDEN PALANQUIN USED IN THE CORONATION CEREMONY

(See Bulletin No. 1.)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Bangkok: Scene of a Royal Drama

BANGKOK is the scene of a royal drama. There Prince Pracha Tipok will become king of Siam, succeeding his older brother, Rama VI, who died at the age of forty-four. Two days before the monarch's death a child was born to the queen. The baby, the first born to a king of Siam in 32 years, was a girl and disappointment over his failure to have an heir is believed to have hastened the king's death.

In Bangkok the king and his court live and there is operated the machinery of the country's highly centralized government. The capital has become in the eyes of the king and his people a symbol of Siamese power, and millions of dollars have been spent to beautify it and make it in many ways a convenient modern city drained and cleaned, sparkling with electric lights, dotted with spacious parks, and crossed by streets in which the clang of tramway gongs and the whir of motor cars are common sounds.

Bangkok Is Siam

In a sense, it may be said that "Bangkok is Siam" much more truly than Paris may be said to be France or Buenos Aires to be Argentina. In a country of 9,000,000 inhabitants it is virtually the only city. Its population is more than half a million, so that it is roughly the size of San Francisco and has nearly 100,000 more people than Washington. About it lie Siam's richest rice lands; to it come on the one hand boats laden with the products of the country, and on the other ocean-going vessels to unload imports and load exports; and from it in turn are distributed the supplies for the interior.

Though Siam is a tropical country, lying in the same latitude with southern India, thanks to pleasant breezes it does not experience the extreme of heat known to the Indian plains. In Bangkok the heat during the dry season seldom exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. In the sun it is much warmer and paper parasols are seen everywhere.

Little or no clothing is worn by the small children among the Siamese in Bangkok during most of the year. As the children approach school age both boys and girls don the panung, the universal garment of the country. It consists of a length of cloth wrapped about the hips, the lower edge extending to about the knees. The end of the cloth is thrust between the knees and hitched up behind, so forming a sort of a cross between kilts and knickerbockers. The coolies often wear nothing above the waist, but the costume is completed for others by the addition of a jacket for women and a European type coat for men. Many of the young girls and women wear above the panung bright colored scarfs wrapped about them.

The Amphibious Siamese

Half a century ago all transportation and movement about Bangkok was by the river or the numerous lateral canals. Even now, though streets and highways have been built, bridges constructed and tramways laid, the waterways are still of transcendent importance in the life of the city. This is especially true during the rainy season when the streams are flowing full and contact may be maintained by water with the northern part of the country. A continual

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MEXICAN GIRL MAKING TORTILLAS

The tortilla is a sort of flapjack of corn ground or mashed on a primitive "dough board" of stone, with a stone rolling-pin. A tortilla wrapped around a core of minced meat and peppers or some similar stuffing becomes a tamale (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Corn, Another Popular Emigrant From the Americas

THINK what it would mean to agriculture in North America if twelve-foot corn could be grown as far north as the shores of Hudson Bay.

Such an experimental crop is reported from the tip of the Scandinavian lobe which is the granary of Sweden. Success of the venture is expected to encourage Swedish farmers to grow corn, or "maj," and make the country independent of corn imports from America.

The growth of twelve-foot corn 1,000 miles nearer the North Pole than the Illinois corn belt is but one long stride in the marvelous spread of this native American plant to every continent.

Portugal Threshes Its Corn

Indian corn, or maize, is almost universally believed by botanists to have originated in the Western Hemisphere, probably in Central America, upland South America, or Mexico. Like the potato, it was wholly unknown in Europe and the Near East until after the discovery of America; but it is so prolific a crop and the grain is so satisfactory as a food for both man and live stock, that its culture spread rapidly over the world after the sixteenth century. The United States continues to be the dominant producer of maize, but Argentina is getting to be a considerable rival and exports millions of bushels.

Throughout Portugal, in parts of Spain, in southern France, in the Po Valley of Italy, and in the countries along the lower Danube, maize is a valuable crop and the grain an important food material. The American from the "Corn Belt" who made a trip through these countries would have surprises aplenty in the different methods of handling and raising corn. In Portugal he would find corn not being "shelled" by machine or hand, but the ears spread out on a threshing floor, being beaten with flails. A coarse bread of corn meal and rye flour mixed is eaten throughout Portugal.

Called "Turkish Wheat" in Egypt

In Italy corn is seldom made into bread. The meal is made into a thick porridge containing bits of meat and called "polenta." A coarse bread of maize meal is sold on the streets of Constantinople.

In Egypt, South Africa, Syria, Persia, India, and even China, American corn is grown, though it is given a different name in each locality, ranging from "mealies" in Africa, to "Turkish wheat" in Egypt. The stalks are valuable for fuel in the almost treeless Nile delta, and are used also by the fellaheen in building their simple huts.

Certain old records in China indicate that corn was received at the court as tribute from parts of the empire before the discovery of America. This has been taken by some students as pointing to an Asiatic origin of the plant, but the general opinion is that America was the home of corn, and that if it appeared in China before the voyage of Columbus, its presence rather indicates a pre-Columbian traffic between America and Asia.

In the United States corn finds its most important use as a food for live

stream of heavy rice boats brings its freight of grain to the city's rice mills and merchants, and great rafts of teak logs float in from the hill country. In the center of the stream are anchored vessels from many foreign ports with a swarm of lighters busy about them.

As in many Chinese rivers houseboats line the shores of the Menam at Bangkok, being tied in tiers four and five deep in places. In these habitations thousands of the families of the city live year in and year out. Many such houseboats are shops. The river is their street and by them passes an ever-changing procession of small craft—launches, houseboats on the move, barges, passenger boats, the laden boats of farmers enroute to market, priests' boats and the canoes of individuals on shopping expeditions or bound abroad on other business. Even small children paddle around in tiny canoes, or splash about in the water, able to swim at an early age. The typical Siamese may truly be called amphibious.

The king of Siam, theoretically an absolute monarch, greatly westernized his country. Official advisers from America and Europe reside in Bangkok and take important parts in the conduct of the government. Like the Japanese, the Siamese have sent out promising young men to be educated abroad and to bring back new ideas.

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ALL IN THE LIFE OF A BOUNDARY SURVEYOR

This triangulation post is on a cold peak near the Arctic circle. The station was used in the determination of the Alaska-Canada boundary, one of the most difficult national boundaries ever surveyed (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Baalbek: An Ancient Gem Amidst Modern Conflict

IN THE MIDST of that region of Syria where France is trying to suppress an uprising of native Moslem tribes are the ruins of Baalbek which stand, even today, as one of the architectural wonders of the world.

This namesake city of the sun-god once enjoyed a position of great commercial importance, as it was on the direct route to Asia Minor from Egypt and the Red Sea, as well as from Tyre to Asia Minor and thence to Europe.

Though its earliest history is shrouded in darkness, it is certain that at a very early date Baalbek was a chief seat of sun worship. Lying in the plain of Baka'a about 40 miles from Damascus in a well-watered area which forms a watershed for the Orontes River, along whose valley the armies and traffic of all ages have passed to and from Egypt, it attained a position of prominence in the early Christian era.

A Masterpiece of Roman Creation

Above the heterogeneous collection of low flat-roofed mud cottages that constitute the present city of 2,000 inhabitants, the stately ruins of what must have been one of the most magnificent of Syrian cities now stand out as a tribute to the energy and culture of Rome, the long arm of whose power was felt throughout the world then known.

Upon a base which still shows the names of Antoninus Pius and Julia Domna, the architects reared the Temple of the Sun, a rectangular building, 290 feet long and 160 feet wide, whose roof was supported by 54 Corinthian columns, the circumference of which was 22 feet and height 80 feet—giants in comparison to those on the United States Capitol in Washington. It stands upon a platform on the acropolis which measures 1,000 feet by 450 feet, and was originally entered by a broad flight of steps, but when ex-Kaiser Wilhelm was engaged in restoring the ruins in 1905 he put in the place of this stately ancient approach a narrow modern staircase.

With the exception of six of the columns, little of the temple is now standing. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the structure, notwithstanding its size and the beauty of its conception, is the fact that such enormous blocks of stone were used in its construction. Some of them measure 60 feet in length.

Tore Down Pillars for Iron Braces

The god, Baal, whom the Greeks identified with their sun-god Helios and the Romans with their Jupiter of Heliopolis to whom the temple was erected, is usually represented as a beardless youth wearing a long drapery of scales and carrying a whip in his right hand and thunder bolts and stalks of grain in his left.

Constantine used the temple as a Christian church. Theodosius the Great wrought havoc in it, using portions for another church which he built nearby; earthquakes have done their deadly work to its walls and columns; the Arabs used it as a fortress, when they sacked Baalbek in 748 A. D.; Timur the Lame pillaged it in 1400; and the Turks took possession of it in 1517, the pashas of Damascus tearing down the magnificent pillars for the iron with which the

stock. Millions of bushels, however, are exported to Europe, and other millions are used as raw materials in industries. Corn starch, corn oil and glucose are the principal products now manufactured.

Mexico Leans Heavily on the Corn Crop

Much corn is used also as a food in the United States, especially in the South and in parts of the West. The dishes prepared from corn meal are to a considerable extent localized. The Southerner who has not tasted the fluffy, sweetened corn cake of the North, the Northerner who has never eaten the golden crusted egg-bread or the foamy spoon bread of the South, and those in both regions who are too far removed from the farm to know the nutty crackling pones have missed some of America's most characteristic foods.

In Mexico a good crop of corn is as important as the annual rice supply in China, potatoes in Ireland, or wheat in Russia. Corn or maize is the staff of life in Mexico, but to the American used to his substantial and sizable loaf it is likely to appear a somewhat frail prop. Most of the Mexican corn is not milled into meal or flour. It is laboriously crushed with small stone rollers by hand, in millions of kitchens and dooryards. The crushed grain is then moistened into a stiff paste and cooked on a griddle into what the average visitor from north of the Rio Grande would term a "tough, flabby pancake." These are tortillas, the most generally used articles of food in Mexico. They are cooked in the home, in restaurants, over braziers in the market place, or taken cold by laborers in their lunch packets. Nor are they unknown on the tables of the prosperous. Wherever food appears in Mexico the tortilla stands well to the fore.

How to Eat a Tortilla

Not only does the tortilla look unappetizing to the outsider; it is sure to prove unappetizing if he follows his first impulse and treats it like a pancake, for it is tough and rather tasteless. But treated as bread, the tortilla will make a much better impression. The proper trick is to roll it tightly so that it will be manageable and will retain its heat. It then becomes a bread-stick whose spiraled end will melt a bit of butter and furnish a really delectable bite.

If one casts aside outlander notions of etiquette he can enjoy his tortilla even more. If the rolled end is dipped into the fiery red sauce of chili con carne or the highly seasoned gravy of a stew, it furnishes delightful morsels. Among the millions rather than the thousands of Mexicans, however, tortillas are eaten day in and day out with boiled brown beans.

A Tamale Is a Stuffed Corn Dumpling

Corn contributes to another important Mexican dish, the tamale. The raw corn paste is flattened out as though tortillas were to be made. On the paste is spread a thin layer of minced meat and pepper pods. The two layers are then folded up so that the meat and pepper forms an inner core with a sort of capsule of corn paste about it. Each piece is then wrapped in a corn shuck made pliable by soaking in water. Numbers of these are placed in a tin vessel and cooked by steam, then served piping hot both with fire and pepper.

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Our Misplaced Boundary Lines

WORK RECENTLY begun to check up the condition of monuments marking the straight line boundary between New York and Pennsylvania, and to find how far the line varies from its proper position, brings to attention only one of the scores of "boundary skeletons" in the national closet.

It is probably safe to say that not one of the forty-eight States is now administering exactly the territory which supposedly belongs to it. In some cases the differences are only matters of hundreds or thousands of acres, but in others they must be measured by hundreds of square miles. These faulty boundaries are for the most part accepted now, especially in the States longest settled; but the agreements have not all been reached quietly. There have been scores of disputes between neighboring States and territories, dozens of law suits have been brought before the Supreme Court, and in one or two cases bitterness has been so great that civil war threatened.

Straight Line Is the Most Difficult Between Two Points

The chief difficulty is in drawing straight lines. Anyone can draw a straight line on a piece of paper. He can construct a reasonably straight edged flower bed or driveway. But try to lay out a straight line some miles or hundreds of miles long on the face of the earth, over hill and dale, valley and mountain, and you are faced by a vastly more difficult problem.

Many of the supposedly east and west lines between the colonies, later inherited as boundaries by the States, were laid out with no other instrument than the magnetic compass. The direction in which the needle pointed varied as the surveyor advanced; but in some cases no account was taken of this, and in others inaccurate corrections were used. The lines, instead of being straight and running in a true east and west direction, were traced somewhat like rail fences between their terminal points, or struck off from the true direction at an angle and had to be brought back at intervals by offsets.

Later when better instruments, astronomical methods, and higher mathematics were used the errors in running boundary lines were greatly reduced. An absolutely accurate line hundreds of miles long through rough country has never yet been marked out on the earth's surface, however, and probably never will be—chiefly because surveying instruments depend on plumb line or spirit level to establish supposed perpendiculars, and these indicators vary with differences in density of the rocks from place to place.

When Ohio and Michigan Nearly Went to War

The closest approach to accuracy has been made by the "triangulation system" which the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has extended over a great part of the United States. Errors still crop up, but they are almost negligible. It is this triangulation system which has disclosed many of the rather glaring inaccuracies of the earlier boundary surveys.

A number of boundary difficulties have arisen because of mistakes in geography. Thus the first boundary treaty between Great Britain and the United States in 1782 provided that the northern boundary of the United States

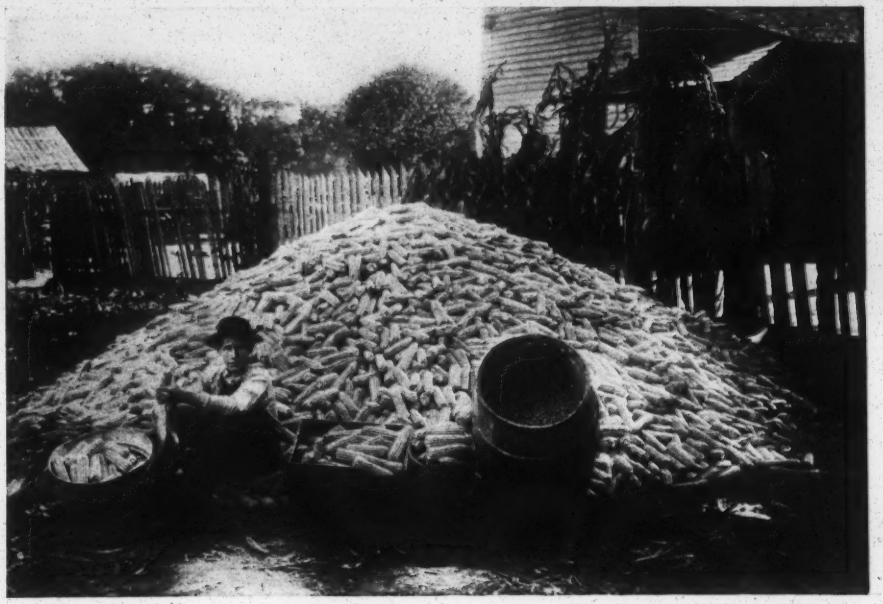
stones were bound together. In spite of the misery and misrule which the city has experienced since, it stands as one of the most stately ruins of the ages.

Most of the known history of the place dates from the time when Augustus planted a Roman colony there, as the coins of Heliopolis, in the first century show. The temple, which legends among the inhabitants say was built by Solomon, was in reality founded by Antoninus Pius, that adopted son of the Emperor Hadrian, whose reign is almost a blank in history because during it practically all wars, violence and crimes ceased, his thoughts and energies being dedicated to the happiness of his people.

"City of the Sun God"

The Greeks, during the Seleucidian dynasty, changed the name of Baalbek into the Greek equivalent for "city of the sun-god," Heliopolis, and this was subsequently adopted by the Romans. The city, however, is not to be confused with the celebrated Heliopolis of Lower Egypt, which was the seat of the Egyptian worship of the sun. In the latter the two obelisks, known as Cleopatra's Needles, which now mark the skyline in London and in Central Park, New York City, originally stood.

Bulletin No. 3, December 21, 1925.



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A CHAMPION BOY CORN GROWER

In South Carolina, which is not noted as a corn state, this boy grew 228¼ bushels of corn to an acre. The United States is the greatest corn-growing nation, but Argentina is pushing rapidly toward the front rank (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Broadcasting Stockholm

RADIO TELEGRAPHIC communication is well developed in Europe, but broadcasting, as Americans know it, has lagged. Therefore it is an event worth chronicling when Stockholm opens a new broadcasting station and Stockholm, itself, deserves a record of its progress broadcast by print.

A winding fiord, leading up from the Baltic Sea, provides an enchanting approach to the city. Along the low rocky shores the small steamers and lumber boats, called wood billies, lie in little coves, their rigging almost tangled among the boughs of the forest. A few wooden houses set among the trees and the constantly shifting shores give a fairylike effect, which is heightened as you round a bend in the fiord and a huge stone city comes suddenly into view, seemingly carved from the rocks and the woods.

City Is Built on Islands

Stockholm, like Venice, is a city founded on islands, but it has spread out into the mainland to the north and south, where most of its people now live. The early Vikings gave the city its start when they chose one of the islands in the harbor as the site of a fort, to protect their settlements along the chain of lakes and rivers inland. These inland waterways, with the addition of several modern canals, now connect Stockholm with the Cattegat and the North Sea.

The island portion of the original city, Staden, like its Parisian counterpart, the Ile de la Cite, bears reminders of its early history. Today it contains the magnificent Royal Palace, one of the finest structures in the French Classic style in Europe, and many of the business establishments of the city, most of them housed in handsome stone buildings of uniform Renaissance design.

Visitors Welcome at the Palace

The Staden is connected with four adjacent islands and the main land to the north and south by arched stone bridges. The most famous of these, the Norrbro, is the Brooklyn Bridge of Stockholm, in respect to traffic, and its London Bridge, as an object of sentiment.

Perhaps the visitors may be given a taste of the traditional lack of ceremony of the Swedish court. In striking contrast to fenced-off Buckingham Palace, with its red-coated guards, the Swedish Royal Palace is open to the public. Visitors are invited to the comfortable private rooms of the huge edifice, which has the atmosphere of a large English country home.

Harbor Open All Winter

The modern quality of the city is illustrated by the extensive use to which a comparatively recent invention—the telephone—has been put. Stockholm has 107,979 telephones, or 25.4 for every 100 inhabitants. Stockholm also is a great industrial center, with iron foundries, ship building plants, sugar, tobacco, cotton, leather, soap, furniture and food products factories. Although within a few miles of being as far north as Cape Farewell, Greenland, ice breakers keep the harbor open all winter.

Bulletin No. 5, December 21, 1925.

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should run from the Lake of the Woods "on a due west course to the river Mississippi"—a physical impossibility. This error had to be adjusted later but the tiny projection of United States territory into Canada at the 95th meridian —like the sight on a rifle barrel—is a monument to the mistake.

Another error that led to trouble was the belief that an east-west line through the southern extremity of Lake Michigan would cut Lake Erie at or north of the latter's western end. The extension of Indiana and Ohio several miles north of this old east-west line testifies to the correction that had to be made. The shifting of the Ohio line north, incidentally, was one of the boundary matters that came near causing civil war. Militia from both Ohio and Michigan were mobilized near the disputed territory in 1835 and bloodshed was avoided by the narrowest margin.

Delaware a Puzzle in Geometry

One of the most peculiar State boundaries in the United States is the northern line of Delaware which is the arc of a circle nicked out of the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania. Laying out the Delaware boundaries was a rather difficult problem in geometry and surveying combined. While the north line is an arc of a circle drawn from the center of the town of Newcastle with a twelve mile radius, the west line is in the main a tangent to the circle from a point midway between the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay on the parallel forming the state's southern boundary.

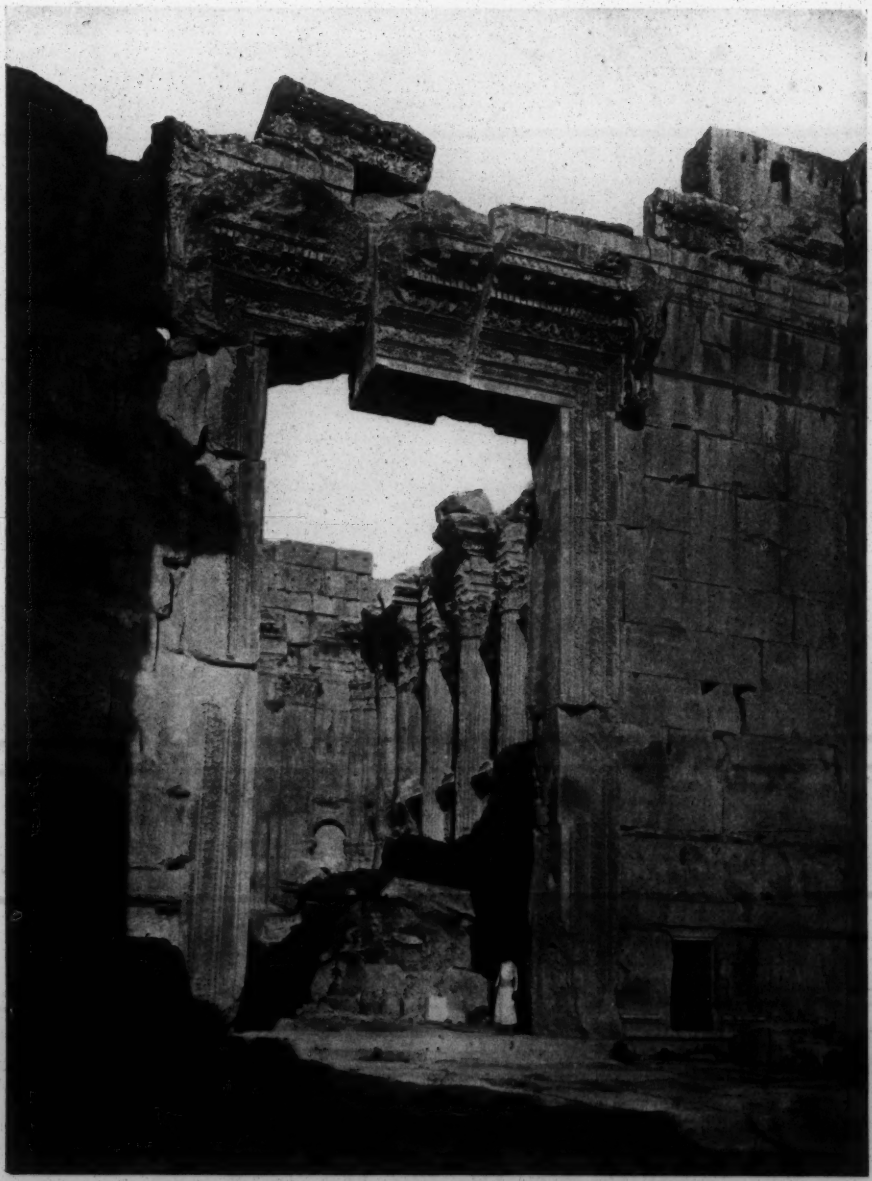
No boundary line is more famous that the "Mason and Dixon Line" which divides the North and the South. It is the southern boundary of Pennsylvania and the northern boundary of Maryland. It takes its name from Jeremiah Mason and Charles Dixon, two famous mathematicians sent from England to survey the boundary. The line established by Mason and Dixon is probably more nearly accurate than any of the other east-west boundaries run in the eastern United States.

In contrast to the Mason and Dixon line is the long east-west line forming the southern boundaries of Virginia and Kentucky between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mississippi River. This line is supposed to lie along a parallel of latitude at 36° 30′ north. The line as laid out is probably north of this parallel throughout practically its entire course. Where it cuts the Tennessee River it is about 20 miles too far north. At this point there is an offset to the south and the short stretch between the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers is approximately on the parallel. The southern boundary of Tennessee is slightly less inaccurate than the northern. It dodges both north and south of its supposed location along the 35th parallel.

North Carolina's Great Loss

North Carolina is among the States suffering the greatest losses on account of boundary errors. Its diagonal boundary with South Carolina is supposed to extend to the 35th parallel before turning west. It actually makes the turn 10 miles short of the goal, then jumps 12 miles north of the parallel and continues west. The net loss of territory to the State is estimated at between 500 and 1,000 square miles.

Bulletin No. 4, December 21, 1925.



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GREAT PORTAL INTO THE TEMPLE OF BACCHUS, BAALBEK

The view of this exquisite portal was long obstructed by an Arab screen in the vestibule. This was removed by Sir Richard Burton, noted student of archeology. He also propped up the cracked door-lintel, which has since been more firmly secured by German archeologists. Note size of figure (see Bulletin No. 3).